

COMMENTARY

Accident shows need for risk management

BY TECH. SGT. CARL NORMAN  
Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs

A Kirtland AFB Airman in critical condition following a recent automobile accident brings home the seriousness behind the Air Force's 101 Critical Days of Summer safety campaign, officials said.

Air Force-wide, 18 people have died as the service's annual safety campaign reached its half-way point. That number is up one from the 17 at this point in 2002.

During the 2002 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign, 30 Air Force people died. And according to John Sheehan, Air Force Materiel Command ground safety chief, "If the current trend continues, the Air Force could experience as many or more fatalities this year as they did last year, and one is too many."

Sheehan said the injured Kirtland Airman fits into the category of 18-25 year olds who statistically are more prone to accidents.

"They think nothing will happen to them because it hasn't happened yet," he said.

Speed, alcohol, darkness and poor judgment are primary contributors to the two- and four-wheeled vehicle accidents responsible for most of the deaths this year, Sheehan said. In fact, motorcycles account for more than half of the deaths Air Force officials have recorded so far during this campaign.

"People simply aren't taking the time to think of the risks involved in the things they're doing," Sheehan said. "We've had cars and motorcycles in this country for a long time, and people have been running into things for that same amount of time. Seems like we haven't learned much over the years, and we're paying a high price to learn the same old lessons."

To help wrestle this problem and see fewer people die in preventable accidents, Wayne Ragan,

6 steps of risk management:

- ★ Identify hazards associated with a particular activity.
- ★ Assess the impact each hazard has in relation to potential loss and severity.
- ★ Determine controls necessary to reduce or eliminate the hazards.
- ★ Make decisions as to accepting, avoiding or controlling the risk.
- ★ Follow through to make sure appropriate controls are used.
- ★ Monitor the situation and adjust as necessary to keep things under control.

377th Air Base Wing chief of safety, encourages people to use risk-management techniques and think about what might happen in any given situation.

"Everyone needs to stop-look at what they are doing and think about what they are doing and how they are doing it," Ragan said, "If it is dumb, dangerous or different, please reconsider your actions. The life you save may be your own-or your friend's or child's or spouse's."

"Exercising risk management in everything we do, on- and off-duty, is the key to enjoying safe activities," Sheehan said. "We do a pretty good job with on-duty mishaps and fatalities because we have

more control over how people conduct business. But people need to put those same techniques into practice with off-duty activities because the off-duty stuff can kill you just as dead as the on-duty things can."

Sheehan said if people apply the six steps of risk management, they can be reasonably assured there will be no surprises.

He cited the example of driving two- and four-wheeled vehicles that account for nearly 90 percent of this year's 101 Critical Days deaths. Using risk-management techniques, an individual would first consider hazards such as road conditions, traffic, impaired drivers, wildlife in the area and any unseen situations. People should also take into consideration their experience in driving in a particular kind of vehicle and conditions.

After assessing the risk and analyzing the control measures, they might want to check the weather and drive accordingly, listen to local radio stations for road conditions and travel outside peak-travel times, he said.

"Taking your time in unfamiliar areas and on gravel, slick roads and curves never hurts, either," he said.

Sheehan also suggests keeping road rage caged, not drinking and driving, being ready for wildlife since animals can dart in front of a vehicle at any time, driving defensively and being cautious on unfamiliar roads. Checking into alternate methods of traveling and taking spare parts and tools on extended trips can help travelers be prepared for the unexpected.

Everyone, including supervisors and managers, needs to continue strong interaction with their co-workers and encourage each other to emphasize safety through the remaining 101 Critical Days of Summer, in both on- and off-duty activities, Sheehan said.

"This is the time of year where more activities are happening and therefore the risk of mishaps (increases)," he said. "With increased awareness and people taking the time to think about what might happen in any given situation, we can continue minimizing our mishaps and fatalities and bring our people back home safely."

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Col. David E. Snodgrass, right, receives command of the Air Force Inspection Agency from Lt. Gen. Raymond P. Huot, Air Force Inspector General, in a ceremony at the agency Tuesday.

Photo by Keith Pedersen

## INSPECTION AGENCY

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Snodgrass succeeds Col. J. Worth Carter, who became inspector general, Air Education and Training Command, in June.

Snodgrass arrives here from Charleston AFB, S.C., where he served as 437th Mission Support Group commander.

The new Air Force Inspection Agency commander entered the Air Force in 1975 through the ROTC program at Indiana University, where he received a bachelor's degree in finance. He also holds a master's degree in business administration from the University of North Dakota as well as a master's in systems management from the University of Southern California.

He is a distinguished graduate of Squadron Officer School, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Snodgrass is also a graduate of Air Command and Staff College and the Air Force's School of Advanced Airpower Studies. He is a distinguished graduate of the National War College.

Snodgrass is a master navigator with over 3,000 flight hours in the T-37, T-43, B-52G, B-52H and B-1B aircraft.

In 1981, Snodgrass joined IBM in Rochester, Minn. He was competitively selected for return to active duty in 1985. He served as a B-52G flight commander in the 441st Bomb Squadron, Mather AFB, Calif. After transitioning to the B-1B, the colonel was chosen as assistant operations officer, 9th Bomb Squadron, Dyess AFB, Texas. While at Dyess, he assumed command of the 7th Operations Support

Squadron and served as deputy commander, 7th Support Group.

Before commanding the 437th Mission Support Group, Snodgrass held three positions at the Pentagon, serving with the National Defense Review Staff during the Quadrennial Defense Review, the Joint Doctrine Branch and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Among his many awards and decorations are the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, the Combat Readiness Medal with one device, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Snodgrass and his wife, the former Julie Baumann, hail from Muncie, Ind. They have two sons, Josh and Jake.

## AFMC realigns headquarters functions to gain efficiency

**BY TECH SGT. CARL NORMAN**  
Air Force Materiel Command Public Affairs

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, Ohio (AFMCNS)**—A new mission support directorate stood up here as Air Force Materiel Command leaders take serious aim at transforming the command into a more efficient organization.

AFMC officials determined that for a one-year test period, headquarters two-letter functions for civil engineering, services, security forces and command chaplain would be combined under a mission support directorate, commanded by Col. Larry Spencer (brigadier general select), while safety, public affairs, command historian and protocol will realign under Col. Teddy King, the director of staff.

The realignments, according to Les McFawn, deputy director of AFMC's Plans and Programs Directorate, will provide "one bellybutton to command leadership for installation support."

Officials also determined that the Acquisition Center of Excellence will be integrated into the Directorate of Requirements to better manage the core mission process of acquisition for the command. Many of the details for this integration, however, are still being discussed and the associated bargaining obligations will need to be satisfied prior to integration.

Col. Cary Wallington, deputy to the command civil engineer for installations and support, said the reorganization should have no impact on the command's people and mission outside the headquarters, but it will streamline and better coordinate programs.

"Each of the realigned offices will retain its two-letter identity, with the director becoming chief of that particular office," Wallington said. "This will ensure that outside agencies recognize where the office with functional expertise is in the AFMC organizational structure."

Command leaders said no jobs will be lost due to the reorganization which is being implemented to speed decisions and improve products through better coordination across functional areas.

"There will be no reductions or increases in employment as a result of this effort," Wallington said. "However, there might be ways to consolidate and streamline like functions across functional areas and apply the savings to other areas."

Spencer, recently selected for promotion to brigadier general, has decision-making authority.

"Depending on the issue, some decisions will go no farther than the Mission Support Directorate," Wallington said. "However, others will still require command leadership approval, but all two-letter chiefs will retain direct access to them when neces-

sary."

In addition to improving efficiency and streamlining processes, Wallington said AFMC's headquarters reorganization will put it more in line with the Air Force's combat wing approach where civil engineer, services, security forces and chaplains fall under the Air Force combat wing structure.

"We're mirroring that philosophy as closely as we can, hoping to provide better coordination, planning and support to our customers," Wallington said.

Once the year-long test period is over, Wallington said command officials will determine if the new organizational structure stays or goes, based on its effectiveness and efficiencies gained.

### Former 377th ABW commander promoted

Brig. Gen. Polly A. Peyer, a former 377th Air Base Wing commander, received her general's star in a ceremony at Tinker AFB, Okla. Peyer most recently was the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center vice commander before assuming her duties as director of Logistics at Headquarters, Pacific Air Forces, at Hickam AFB, Hawaii.